



AN ACT REVISING THE TIME AT WHICH YOUTH REACHING 12 YEARS OF AGE DURING A LICENSE YEAR ARE ELIGIBLE TO HUNT; AMENDING SECTION 87-2-805, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 87-2-805, MCA, is amended to read:

"87-2-805. (Temporary) Persons under eighteen years of age -- youth combination sports license -- terminally ill youth under seventeen years of age -- free wildlife conservation license for resident seniors and certain minors. (1) Resident minors who are 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age may fish and may hunt upland game and migratory game birds during the open season with only a conservation license. Resident minors who are 15 years of age may hunt migratory game birds with only a conservation license. Resident minors who are under 12 years of age may fish without a license. A nonresident person under 15 years of age may not fish in or on any Montana waters without first having obtained a Class B, B-4, or B-5 fishing license unless the nonresident person under 15 years of age is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident person and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult as established by law or by rule of the department.

(2) A resident, as defined by 87-2-102, who is 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age may purchase a Class A-3 deer A tag for \$6.50 and a Class A-5 elk tag for \$8.

(3) (a) A resident who is 12 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a youth combination sports license for \$25. A resident who is 12 years of age or older and under 18 years of age and who applies for any hunting license for the first time is entitled to receive a youth combination sports license free of charge.

(b) The youth combination sports license includes:

- (i) a conservation license;
- (ii) a fishing license;

(iii) an upland game bird license;

(iv) an elk license; and

(v) a deer license.

(c) A resident who is 15 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a Class A fishing license for \$8.

(d) A resident who is 15 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a Class A-1 upland game bird license for \$3.

(e) A person who lawfully purchases or is granted a free youth combination sports license at 17 years of age, but who reaches 18 years of age during that license year, may legally use the license during that license year. A person who hunts or fishes using a youth combination sports license purchased or granted free after the person reaches 18 years of age is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to any of the following penalties by the sentencing court:

(i) revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for at least 5 years, revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for more than 5 years, or revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for life; and

(ii) a monetary fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$5,000 in addition to the fine imposed on a person under this chapter for the specific hunting or fishing violation.

(f) This section does not prohibit a resident minor from purchasing any individual licenses for which the minor may be eligible under this chapter if the minor does not purchase the youth combination sports license.

(4) (a) The department may issue a free resident or nonresident big game combination license, as applicable, to a resident or nonresident youth under 17 years of age who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. In order for a youth to qualify for the free license, the department must receive documentation from a licensed physician verifying that the youth is terminally ill. The free license may be issued to a youth on a one-time basis for only one hunting season.

(b) In exercising hunting privileges, the youth must be in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana hunting license or of a licensed Montana outfitter and conduct all hunting within the terms and conditions of the license issued.

(c) The department may waive hunter safety and education and bowhunter education requirements in 87-2-105 for a qualified youth under this subsection (4) and, in appropriate circumstances, may also allow the

qualified youth to hunt from a vehicle in the manner described in 87-2-803.

(5) Resident minors who are 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age and residents who are 62 years of age or older must, upon application and production of the documentation and information required by 87-2-202(1), be issued a resident wildlife conservation license without charge.

(6) Prior to reaching 12 years of age, minors who will reach 12 years of age by January 16 of a license year may hunt any game species after August 15 of that license year as long as the minor obtains the necessary license pursuant to this chapter. (Terminates February 28, 2009--sec. 7, Ch. 452, L. 2007.)

87-2-805. (Effective March 1, 2009) Persons under eighteen years of age -- youth combination sports license -- terminally ill youth under seventeen years of age. (1) Resident minors who are 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age may fish and may hunt upland game and migratory game birds during the open season with only a conservation license. Resident minors who are 15 years of age may hunt migratory game birds with only a conservation license. Resident minors who are under 12 years of age may fish without a license. A nonresident person under 15 years of age may not fish in or on any Montana waters without first having obtained a Class B, B-4, or B-5 fishing license unless the nonresident person under 15 years of age is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident person and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult as established by law or by rule of the department.

(2) A resident, as defined by 87-2-102, who is 12 years of age or older and under 15 years of age may purchase a Class A-3 deer A tag for \$6.50 and a Class A-5 elk tag for \$8.

(3) (a) A resident who is 12 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a youth combination sports license for \$25. A resident who is 12 years of age or older and under 18 years of age and who applies for any hunting license for the first time is entitled to receive a youth combination sports license free of charge.

(b) The youth combination sports license includes:

- (i) a conservation license;
- (ii) a fishing license;
- (iii) an upland game bird license;
- (iv) an elk license; and
- (v) a deer license.

(c) A resident who is 15 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a Class A fishing license for \$8.

(d) A resident who is 15 years of age or older and under 18 years of age may purchase a Class A-1 upland game bird license for \$3.

(e) A person who lawfully purchases or is granted a free youth combination sports license at 17 years of age, but who reaches 18 years of age during that license year, may legally use the license during that license year. A person who hunts or fishes using a youth combination sports license purchased or granted free after the person reaches 18 years of age is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to any of the following penalties by the sentencing court:

(i) revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for at least 5 years, revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for more than 5 years, or revocation of the person's hunting and fishing privileges for life; and

(ii) a monetary fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$5,000 in addition to the fine imposed on a person under this chapter for the specific hunting or fishing violation.

(f) This section does not prohibit a resident minor from purchasing any individual licenses for which the minor may be eligible under this chapter if the minor does not purchase the youth combination sports license.

(4) (a) The department may issue a free resident or nonresident big game combination license, as applicable, to a resident or nonresident youth under 17 years of age who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. In order for a youth to qualify for the free license, the department must receive documentation from a licensed physician verifying that the youth is terminally ill. The free license may be issued to a youth on a one-time basis for only one hunting season.

(b) In exercising hunting privileges, the youth must be in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana hunting license or of a licensed Montana outfitter and conduct all hunting within the terms and conditions of the license issued.

(c) The department may waive hunter safety and education and bowhunter education requirements in 87-2-105 for a qualified youth under this subsection (4) and, in appropriate circumstances, may also allow the qualified youth to hunt from a vehicle in the manner described in 87-2-803.

(5) Prior to reaching 12 years of age, minors who will reach 12 years of age by January 16 of a license year may hunt any game species after August 15 of that license year as long as the minor obtains the necessary

license pursuant to this chapter."

Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective March 1, 2010.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0221, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2009.

HOUSE BILL NO. 221

INTRODUCED BY COHENOUR, MCALPIN, MALEK, FRENCH, GETZ, FLEMING, MENAHAN, HANDS,
BLEWETT, BELCOURT, MCCLAFFERTY, BOSS RIBS, BOLAND, CAMPBELL, P. BECK, PEASE-LOPEZ,
HINER, HUNTER, MACDONALD, P. NOONAN, STEENSON, VAN DYK, ROUNDSTONE, AUGARE

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